

St. Francis School Newsletter

January 20, 2005

Virtue of the month: COURAGE

School phone numbers:
503-625-0497
503-625-0564 fax

School Address:
410 NE Oregon St.
Sherwood, OR 97140

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Jan. 21st 7:00PM Father/Daughter Dance
- ◆ Jan. 24th Scrip order due in school office
- ◆ Jan. 25th PSO Meeting for all parents
- ◆ Jan. 26th School Mass 8:30
- ◆ Jan. 28th No School Teacher In Service
- ◆ Jan. 28th Early registration ends for current families
- ◆ Jan. 30th Open House 11:30-2:00
- ◆ Jan. 30th-Feb. 4th - Catholic School's Week
- ◆ Feb. 9th Ash Wednesday

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

We are right in the middle of some very positive growth. I would like to share with you some of the current highlights.

School Advisory Council: We had our first meeting yesterday evening. I am going to share a little biographical information about each of the members. We, as a school community, are truly very fortunate that Father Tom was able to assemble such a quality group. For our first meeting, we met and reviewed the purposes of such a council and established some preliminary understandings. We will be meeting again sometime next month (future info to follow on this). It is my intent that a member of this group will sit in on PSO meetings to promote a direct connection between the two bodies.

Richard Gedrose: President of Jesuit High School. Over forty years in Catholic Education as a teacher, coach, and administrator.

J. Patrick Stewart, S.J.: Father Stewart is a long serving member of the Society of Jesus. He has been both a teacher and school administrator with decades of experience in Catholic Education.

Chris Corrado: A Portland business owner, Mr. Corrado is a firm supporter of Catholic Education and a long time friend of this school project. Mr. Corrado donated all the classroom furniture.

Kerry Gillespie: Mr. Gillespie is a business owner and grandfather of a first grader. His support for this school project has deep roots.

Andrew Rice: Mr. Rice is a C.P.A. and is the current financial advisor to the Parish and School. Mr. Rice is a parent at the school and a long time supporter of the school project.

Pam Dennison: Mrs. Dennison is one of the earliest supporters of this project and has served on numerous founding committees of the school. She is a parent of two children in our school.

Laura Larson: Another parent at our school, with a long standing commitment to the project. Like Mrs. Dennison, she volunteered many hours of her time to help make this school a reality.

Father Tom and I are the last two members of the current Council.

Internet use: I am moving cautiously on this, please be patient. Two or three filtering programs are being evaluated. We should have this resolved within the next week.

Web-site: if all goes as planned our new site should be up on the web in the next day or two. Further work is ongoing, but I am sure you will agree, it is already a step forward.

School brochure: It is now complete- wait till you see it! I plan on taking these to various pre-schools and in a number of marketing ways.

Voice mail/new phone answering system: The long wait is over! The story behind this one is a saga, I am just glad we finally have this necessary system in place and I am sure you will agree. All teachers have voice mail. We have a directory, message/announcement box; a box to call in if your child is sick; as well as a direct line to the office.

Student Council: I wanted to wait until next year to establish our Student Council, so that we would have an 8th Grade class, when we did. Elections will take place later this year-sometime in May.

How are our classes looking for next year? What is the structure of the upper grades going to look like? Well, I will be sharing information on this as the enrollment picture for next year becomes clearer. Based upon current interest in our school, a great turn out of early registrants, and the hope that we will fill the kindergarten, my hope is that we can look forward to some very positive possibilities in expanding our program. As soon as I can be more specific, and I believe that this may be as early as mid-February, I will.

Sincerely,

Michael Cantu,
Principal

Mrs. McGarry, our Art teacher, has a special request. She would like to be able to do clay projects. Does anyone know of someone with access to a kiln? If so, please call the school office or Mrs. McGarry. Thank you.

AUCTION NEWS

Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual St. Francis School Auction – October 22, 2005

This year's theme is Mardi Gras and the planning is already in motion. If you are interested in volunteering and earning some share hours, contact Patricia Lyons at trishfx@comcast.net or just come to our next meeting...Many hands make light work! Meeting dates to the end of this school year: Feb. 21st, March 14th, April 18, May 16th, June 6th and June 20th. All meetings are at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for 2005-2006: Early registration ends January 28th.

Open registration begins Jan. 30th.

For students coming into Kindergarten, testing will be the 1st 2 weeks of February. Parents will also need to meet with Mr. Cantu. Call the office to set up your appointment.

Open House:

Sunday, January 30th from 11:30 – 2:00

FACTS Tuition Assistance:

Applications are available in the school office or online at www.factstuitionaid.com. Application deadline is March 15, 2005.

Jump Rope for Heart will take place February 8th and 11th during P.E. class. The students will need the signed permission slip to jump. They do not need a "sponsor" or pledges. Even if your child is not jumping please feel free to fill out a "in memory of" or "in honor of" slip. They will be posted in the hallway.

Correction to the Volunteer form:

Box Tops for Education are being done by Tammy Corello.

Barbara Dey is doing Campbell's labels.

Thank you to both of them for the time they have put in.

Homework Club will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00. This is for students in 3rd – 7th Grades.

LOST – Did someone accidentally pick up the wrong skort at jump rope club? If so, please return it to the office. Thank you.

Fundraising Update:

Scrip orders are due in the school office by **3:00PM, Monday, January 24th**. Forms are available in the school office or by email (PDF form) from gretchen@stfrancissherwood.org

February dates will be the 7th and 21st.

And don't forget to keep bringing in the Box Tops for Education and Campbell's labels (as much of the label as possible.)

School lost and found -

The lost and found will be at the PSO meeting on the 25th. Any items left after the meeting will be given to the uniform exchange of the clothes closet.

The PSO meeting on the 25th will be a great place to meet the other parents and maybe find someone to swap babysitting with (if needed) to be able to volunteer during the school day.

Please remember to drive slowly when dropping off and picking up students, especially in the morning. People are crossing the parking lot to get to the school, parish hall and church.



PARISH NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our parish youth ministry program will be having a fresh Krispy Kreme Donut Sale Sunday, Jan. 23rd after the 8:00AM and 10:30AM masses.

The cost is \$7.00 per dozen. Funds raised will pay for our Confirmation service program to provide Food and toiletries to the homeless at the Blanchet house in Portland.

If you would like to preorder call Sarah Ryor at 503-267-2960.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus are having a breakfast on Sunday, January 30th in the Parish Hall from 9:00 until 12:00. Here's your chance to have a great breakfast.

Other Catholic School News

St. Paul Parish Dinner Dance & Auction: Saturday, February 5th.

Auction: Silent Auction starting at 11:30AM, oral auction at 12:30PM at the St. Paul Community Hall, St. Paul, Oregon. Free admission, snacks and beverages sold.

Dinner Dance: 6PM at the St. Paul Community Hall. Music by the band "Design". Buffet dinner served. Tickets are \$25.00 per person, advanced sales only. Limited supply.

Raffle: Hand-crafted items, tickets are \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00. For more information call 503-633-4321.

Suggestions for PSO - Feel free to tear off this section and drop it in the can in the school office.

SHARE HOUR INFORMATION

“Share hours” can be explained as a method of helping keep tuition costs down; by providing services that allow us to enhance our programs without incurring the expense; but they also supplement and offset the cost of running our core program. How does this translate? Well, the typical actual cost of educating each child is somewhere around two thousand dollars more than the actual tuition charged. Fundraising, share hours and Parish support are all important components in enabling us to keep Catholic Education affordable.

There is another factor to consider when weighing the importance of “share hours”. Simply put, it is the collaborative outcome between the home and the school. Study after study have indicated that successful schools enjoy a strong connection between the parents/guardians and the school.

The criteria for evaluating proper “share hours” activities are weighed according to the formula outlined above. Together, we can achieve great things, and the children of our school are the direct recipients.